

1 CLAIMS

2 1. A method for establishing a trading relationship between trading
3 partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:

4 retrieving configuration details associated with a potential trading partner
5 from a remote site; and

6 automatically configuring a trading relationship with the potential trading
7 partner using the configuration details.

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9 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the retrieving comprises
10 addressing a URL (universal resource locator) to access the configuration details.

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12 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the automatically
13 configuring comprises:

14 creating a trading partner record; and
15 automatically populating the trading partner record with the configuration
16 details.

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18 4. In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of
19 commerce information over a network, a method comprising:

20 collecting configuration details associated with a trading partner
21 participating in the commerce trading system; and

22 publishing the configuration details to a Web site.
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1 5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the collecting comprises
2 presenting a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration
3 details.

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5 6. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing comprises
6 posting the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web
7 site.

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9 7. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the Web site is associated
10 with the trading partner.

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12 8. A method for establishing a trading relationship between trading
13 partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:
14 creating a trading partner record for a potential trading partner;
15 retrieving configuration details associated with the potential trading partner
16 from a remote site; and
17 populating the trading partner record with the configuration details
18 retrieved from the remote site.

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20 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the retrieving comprises
21 addressing a URL (universal resource locator) to access the configuration details
22 posted to a Web site.

10. A method for establishing a trading relationship between first and second trading partners involved in electronic commerce, the method comprising:
collecting configuration details associated with the first trading partner;
publishing the configuration details to a Web site;
creating, at the second trading partner, a trading partner record for the first trading partner;
retrieving the configuration details associated with the first trading partner from the Web site; and
populating the trading partner record with the configuration details associated with the first trading partner.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the collecting comprises presenting a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the publishing comprises publishing the configuration details in XML format.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the publishing comprises posting the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the retrieving comprises addressing the URL to access the configuration details posted to the Web site.

15. A system comprising:

a first computer system at a first trading partner;

a second computer system at a second trading partner;

a Web site;

the first computer system collecting configuration details associated with the first trading partner and publish the configuration details to the Web site; and

the second computer system retrieving the configuration details from the Web site and automatically configure for a trading relationship with the first trading partner using the configuration details.

16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system hosts the Web site.

17. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system presents a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

18. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system posts the configuration details in XML format.

19. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first computer system posts the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

1 **20.** A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the second computer
2 system addresses the URL to access the configuration details.

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4 **21.** A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the second computer
5 system creates a trading partner record and automatically populates the trading
6 partner record with the configuration details.

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8 **22.** A electronic commerce system, comprising:
9 a first component at a first trading partner, the first component collecting
10 configuration details associated with the first trading partner and publishing the
11 configuration details to a Web site; and

12 a second component at a second trading partner, the second component
13 retrieving the configuration details from the Web site and automatically
14 configuring a trading relationship with the second trading partner using the
15 configuration details.

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17 **23.** A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the
18 first program code presents a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the
19 configuration details.

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21 **24.** A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the
22 first program code posts the configuration details to a URL (universal resource
23 locator) at the Web site.

25. A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 24, wherein the second program code addresses the URL to access the configuration details.

26. A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the second program code creates a trading partner record and automatically populates the trading partner record with the configuration details.

27. A software architecture for an electronic commerce system having trading partners that exchange data over a network, comprising:

first program code stored on a computer-readable medium at a first trading partner, the first program code having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, collect configuration details associated with the first trading partner and publish the configuration details to a Web site; and

second program code stored on a computer-readable medium at a second trading partner, the second program code having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, retrieve the configuration details from the Web site and automatically configure a trading relationship with the second trading partner using the configuration details.

28. In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of commerce information over a network, a computer-readable medium at a computer system participating in the commerce trading system storing computer-executable instructions for:

collecting configuration details associated with a trading partner that participates in electronic commerce; and

publishing the configuration details to a Web site.

29. In an electronic commerce trading system involving exchanges of commerce information over a network, a computer-readable medium at a computer system participating in the commerce trading system storing computer-executable instructions for:

creating a trading partner record for a potential trading partner that participates in electronic commerce;

retrieving configuration details associated with the potential trading partner from a Web site; and

populating the trading partner record with the configuration details retrieved from the Web site.

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